



REMARKS

The claims have been amended to reduce excess claims fees and eliminate multiple dependencies. No new matter has been added to the application.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is hereby respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicants respectfully petition the Commissioner for any extension of time necessary to render this paper timely. Please charge any fees due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 12-1213.

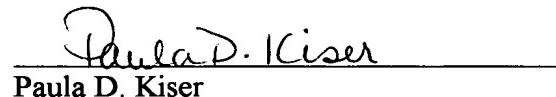
Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF FIRST CLASS MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the 16th day of December, 2003.



Paula D. Kiser

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